



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING
SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

Monday, July 9, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.
**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

PRESENT:

James Heitel, Chairman
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner
Robert Frost, Commissioner
Con Englehorn, Commissioner
Mike Milillo, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Susan Wheeler, Commissioner

STAFF:

Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Liz Hildenbrand
Scott Hamilton
Claire Miller
Robbin Schweitzer

GUESTS:

David Hay
Jack McEnroe
Mike Mayer
Marilyn Andrews
Dustin Darveau
Rod Lucas, AGFD
Tim Holt, AGFD
Darren Julian, AGFD
Alan Hunt
Joseph Berardi
Mike Mayer

Randy Phillips
Darr Colburn
Bill Parker
Steve Boggs
John DeModica
Donna Marinu
Rich Gray
John Tanner
Susan Cassese
Iris Epstein

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present as noted above.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to speak on non-agendized items.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of June 7, 2012

COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 7, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MILILLO, THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER WHEELER WAS ABSENT.

5. ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT - WILDLIFE & HUNTING

Mr. Ekblaw distributed an overview of the Preserve management, hunting regulations, and authorities of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Kevin Bodmer from Arizona Game and Fish Department gave a presentation outlining the responsibilities and guidelines of the Game and Fish Department, the structure of the Game and Fish Commission, rules and orders established by State Legislature the most recent wildlife research, and hunting regulations and permitting in unit 26M (McDowell Sonoran Preserve).

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions. Discussion ensued regarding wildlife studies, permitting, and safety.

The following individuals spoke regarding their experiences and concerns about bow hunting in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve:

- David Talbert
- Donna Marino
- Mike Mayer
- Joseph Berardi
- Marilyn Andrews
- Randy Phillips
- Darr Colburn
- Alan Hunt
- John DeModica
- Rich Gray
- Terry Herndon
- Harvey Epstein
- John Miller

The Commission expressed interest in continuing the discussion on a future agenda and suggested that consideration be given to signage regarding hunting regulations, and additional training for the stewards regarding hunting.

Mr. Ekblaw said that staff would agendize a discussion to include information about hunting near trailheads and trails located near residential areas, as well as working with Game and Fish to create a document outlining rules and locations for hunters.

6. NORTH AREA TRAIL MASTER PLAN

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the conceptual North Area Trail Master Plan, including general trail locations, eliminations, and the public input process. He noted that based on public input, a discussion about the possibility of adding a trailhead further north along Pima or Stagecoach or near 136th Street and a discussion about the possibility of some trails being designated as horse or mountain bike use only will be agendized for Commission discussion in the fall. He gave an update on the City's meeting with the Tonto National Forest staff about boundaries and Stage Coach Pass.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPTUAL NORTH AREA MASTER PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL. SECONDED BY CHAIR HEITEL, THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER WHEELER WAS ABSENT.

7. STAFF REPORTS

- **Land Acquisition Update**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that applications for State Parks Matching Grants funds have been submitted and updates will be sent to Commissioners once the appraisals are completed on the three northern parcels. He reviewed the recent actions of City Council and noted that the Heritage Grant of \$25,000 for a fauna study was awarded to the Conservancy and that the Scottsdale Unified School District approved using Anasazi school for overflow parking.

- **Current Projects & July 4th Update**

Ms. Miller noted that construction has begun at Brown's Ranch and plant salvage is continuing and temporary bypass trails are being completed. She said that 4th of July was successful in part thanks to support from the stewards and the fire department.

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the new staff structure and introduced Liz Hildebrand as the new Preserve Manager.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no additional Commissioner comments.

9, AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

- Future Land Cost Benefit Study Process
- Land Acquisition and Financial Update
- North Area Policies Discussion
- Commercial Fees and Budget Opportunities

Mr. Ekblaw noted that the first few meetings in the fall will include more detailed presentation on land acquisition status, the State Parks recommendation, and the financial status, as well as a follow-up on the bow hunting issue and trailheads.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.